



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy



lse.ac.uk/ideas/exec



The Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy is a unique programme designed to enhance the strategic vision of global leaders. The programme will provide you with the analytical tools to understand a changing world and the policy skills to operate within it.

You will learn how to deal with emerging threats and risks strategically and how to solve common problems by negotiating with stakeholders as well as adversaries.

While lectures provide the background to the issues, you will challenge conventional wisdom on these topics in sharply-focused seminars. Workshops and policy simulations on crisis management and diplomatic negotiations will provide you with practical insights into what has been learned from the lectures.

Chris Alden
Programme Director
Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy





Photo credit: US Department of State GPA Archive (CC BY 2.0)

A Unique Programme For Global Leaders

Globally Recognised for Social Sciences

LSE offers a unique opportunity to study the social sciences at a world-renowned university, while enjoying the cultural, social and recreational facilities of one of the world's most vibrant capital cities.

Study with LSE experts and policy practitioners

You will be studying with LSE academics and senior policy practitioners, sharing their experience at the highest levels of diplomacy and business.

Combine work with study

The programme is taught in four intensive weeks, 20 weekly evening sessions, and two 'policy weekend' retreats. This structure is designed to allow time-pressured professionals to combine their existing jobs with their studies.

High-calibre international participants

This one-year programme is intended for professionals in public, private or NGO sectors with at least four years of work experience, aiming to advance to senior positions. Places are deliberately restricted to ensure high calibre discussion and intellectual engagement.

Be part of a leading think tank

The **Executive Programme** is managed by LSE IDEAS, the LSE's foreign policy think tank. Benefit from IDEAS events and research and be part of a thriving intellectual community by studying at a world-leading think tank.

[Watch the Programme video.](#)

Programme Calendar

Registration	Evening Seminar	Dissertation Plan
Intensive Week	Policy Weekend	Dissertation
Assesment		

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30	31																			
January 2024							February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31							28	29				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
May 2024							June 2024							July 2024							August/Sept 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

Programme Journey

	Pre-Programme	Michaelmas Term (September to December)	Lent Term (January to April)	Summer Term (May to August)	Graduation (December) Post-Programme
Courses		IR443E Strategy in a Changing World	IR442E Diplomacy and Challenges	IR444E Strategy in Action and IR496E Dissertation	
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Registration and IT account setupReview pre-programme readingsAccess the programme Moodle Homepage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How to Think Strategically first intensive weekStrategic Actors lecture and seminar seriesFirst Policy WeekendStrategic Economic Trends lecture and seminar seriesStrategic Environment, Global South second intensive week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tools of Diplomacy third intensive weekGlobal Security Challenges lecture and seminar seriesSecond Policy WeekendStrategic Decisions fourth intensive week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dissertation research question selection in consultation with your Academic MentorDissertation research design planResearch for a self-directed, independent dissertation research project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Graduation ceremony in December, date TBC by the School.Programme Alumni Network registrationAnnual Programme Alumni DaysRegular Alumni and LSE IDEAS Events
Assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">One Formative EssayOne Summative Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One Formative EssayOne Summative Policy Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One assessed Dissertation Plan with feedbackDissertation	
Learning Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced strategy formulationGrasp of the global strategic environmentUnderstanding of IR theory of strategic behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Familiarity with the tools of diplomacyGrasp of global security challengesPractice in negotiation and crisis management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced analytical skills and ability to design and conduct an independent analytical research project	

The Faculty

The **Faculty** is comprised of world-renowned academics working in the fields of International Relations, International History and Economics. They provide the participants with the analytical tools to better understand the challenges of today's world.



PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Professor Chris Alden teaches International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science and is a Senior Research Associate at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).



Professor Christopher Coker is Director of LSE IDEAS and Professor of International Relations. He is a former twice serving member of the Council of the Royal United Services Institute, a former NATO Fellow and a regular lecturer at Defence Colleges in the UK, US, Rome, Singapore and Tokyo.



Dr Nikhil Kalyanpur is an Assistant Professor at LSE's International Relations department. He researches topics at the intersection of business-government relations, global governance, and economic statecraft.



Professor Karen E. Smith is Professor of International Relations at the LSE. Her area of expertise includes foreign policy analysis, international organisations (particularly the EU and the UN), and human rights policies.



Professor Michael Cox is Emeritus Professor of International Relations and Senior Academic Programme Advisor for the Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy programme. He is a renowned international lecturer who has published extensively on the United States, transatlantic relations, Asia's rise, and the problems facing the EU.



Professor Robert Falkner is Associate Professor of International Relations at LSE and the Research Director of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment.



Professor Tomila Lankina is Professor of International Relations at LSE. Her expertise is on democratization, sub-national governance, Russia, Central Europe, Eurasia, India, and legacies of colonialism.



Professor Linda Yueh is Visiting Professor at LSE IDEAS, Fellow in Economics at St Edmund Hall, Oxford University, and Adjunct Professor of Economics at London Business School.

* Note: Included faculty are subject to some changes each academic year.

The Practitioners

The **team of practitioners** is formed by experienced strategists, diplomats and civil servants. Their strategic and diplomatic experience ranges from the Foreign Office and Number 10 to NATO and the EU, GCHQ and the UK National Security Council, and international business and finance. Through sharing their invaluable first-hand experience, they enable participants to develop a practical approach to the issues covered by the programme.



HEAD OF PRACTITIONERS

Hugh Sandeman leads the team of practitioners. He is a Visiting Senior Fellow at LSE IDEAS and Project Head of Global Strategies. He was an international banker for 30 years, based in New York, Tokyo, London and Frankfurt, and for the past decade has focused on India. He was previously Tokyo correspondent, international business editor and New York correspondent of *The Economist*.



Sir Robert Cooper is a British diplomat and adviser. He was Head of the Policy Planning Staff at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK's Special Representative in Afghanistan, before taking up a post in the European Union in 2002.



Dame Judith MacGregor was the British High Commissioner to South Africa from September 2013 until March 2017. She was FCO Director for Migration in 2007, Ambassador to Mexico in 2009, and President of the FCO Women's Association from 2006, overseeing a significant increase in the number of women who became senior British diplomats.



Sir Emyr Jones Parry is a former Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, former UK Permanent Representative on the North Atlantic Council. From 2015-2017, he was Chancellor of Aberystwyth University. In 2014, he was President, Learned Society of Wales.



Baroness Ashton of Upholland

Catherine Margaret Ashton is a British Labour politician and former Leader of the House of Lords. In 2009, she became the European Union's first High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and won praise for her work as a negotiator.



John Everard was the British Ambassador to Belarus, Uruguay and North Korea. Subsequently, John held the Pantech Fellowship at Stanford University. He was for some 18 months the Co-ordinator of the UN Security Council's Panel of Experts on sanctions on North Korea established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874 in March 2011.



Sir Richard Mottram is an expert on defence, security, strategy and planning. He was one of Britain's top civil servants, heading several departments, including the Ministry of Defence, and Security and Intelligence in the Cabinet Office. His current roles include Chairman of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

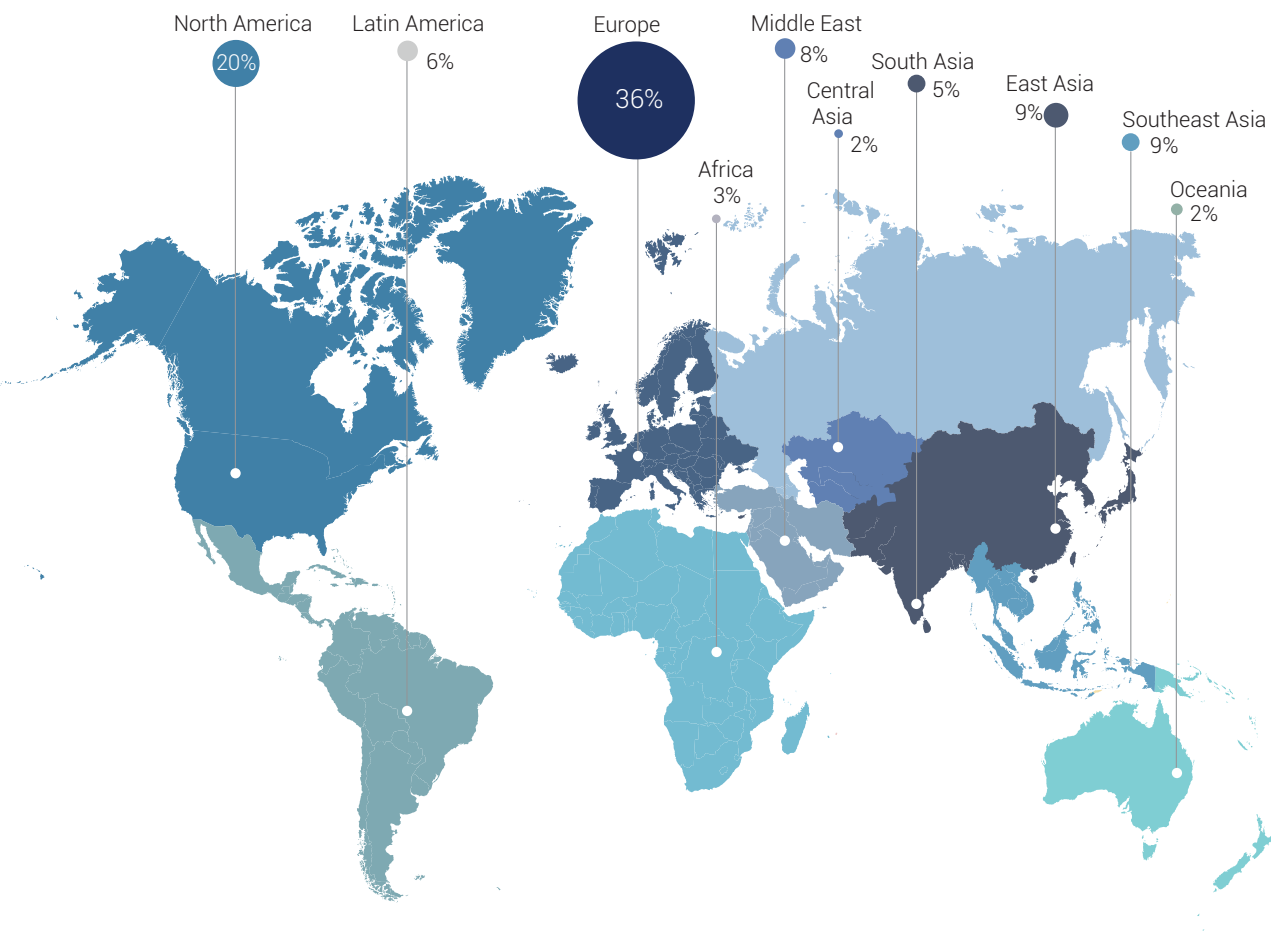


Sir Malcolm Rifkind was a Conservative Member of Parliament from 1974-1997 and 2010-2015. Sir Malcolm has been a member of the British Cabinet as Secretary of State for Scotland and for Defence. He was Foreign Secretary from 1995-1997, and between 2010 and 2015, he was Chairman of Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee.

*Note: Included practitioners are subject to some changes each academic year.

Profile of Participants:

Geographical Breakdown



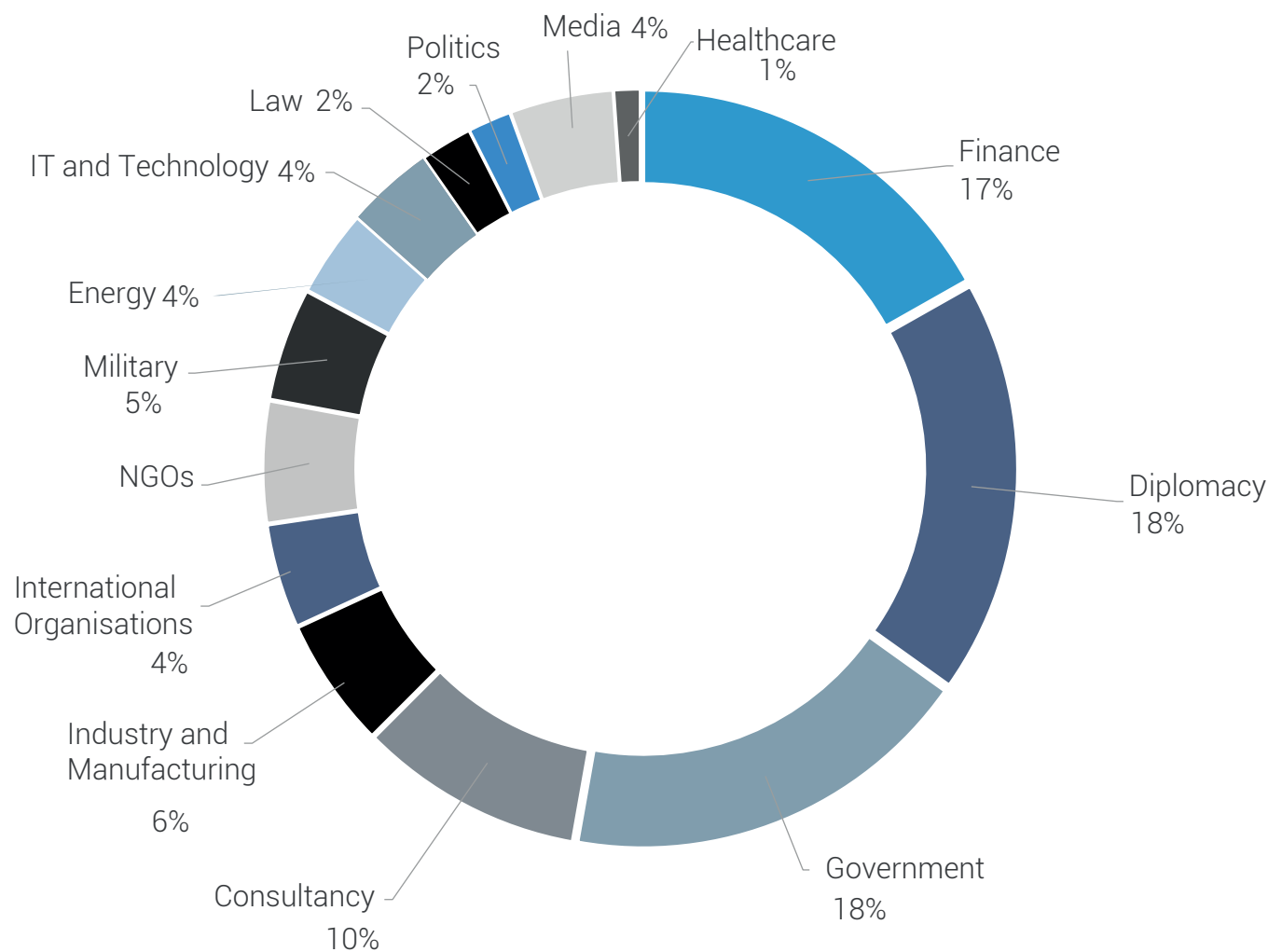
Percentages include both past and current participants.

64 Countries Represented

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Afghanistan | Hungary | Peru |
| Austria | India | Philippines |
| Australia | Indonesia | Poland |
| Argentina | Iran | Portugal |
| Azerbaijan | Iraq | Qatar |
| Bangladesh | Ireland | Singapore |
| Brazil | Israel | Slovenia |
| British Virgin Islands | Italy | South Africa |
| Canada | Japan | South Korea |
| Chile | Kazakhstan | Spain |
| China | Lebanon | Sri Lanka |
| Colombia | Liberia | Sweden |
| Czech Republic | Libya | Switzerland |
| Denmark | Macedonia | Thailand |
| Ecuador | Malaysia | Taiwan |
| Finland | Mexico | Turkey |
| France | Morocco | UAE |
| Germany | Netherlands | United Kingdom |
| Ghana | New Zealand | US |
| Greece | Nigeria | Vietnam |
| Guinea Bissau | Norway | |
| Hong Kong | Pakistan | |

Student Profile:

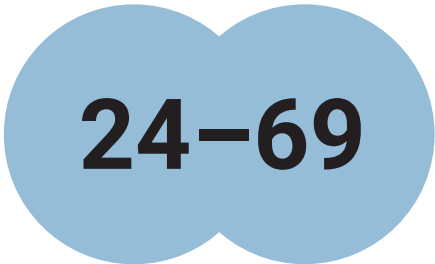
By Profession



By Age



Average Age



Range

By Gender



61%



39%



Photo credit: Guy Jordan

Graduate Profiles



Dame Karen Pierce
UK AMBASSADOR TO THE
UNITED STATES

"Right from the first week I was able to apply the lessons I had learnt to our operational and policy work and to coach my teams to look at issues differently."



Susan le Jeune d'Allegre
HIGH COMMISSIONER, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
CANADA

"You have to be prepared to have your own ideas challenged, even changed by other students from different backgrounds. I found that extremely stimulating. Having open and heated discussions about issues was really good for me to take back and encourage in my workplace."



Jim Emerson
SECRETARY GENERAL,
CHILDFUND ALLIANCE

"From my first contact with the faculty I knew this was the right course - I would be in a demanding academic environment that has a strong focus on applying knowledge in real situations. It was hard work; it was great fun."



Leah Hershey
INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT ANALYST FOR THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

"The in-depth and broad knowledge of international affairs that I gained from the course prepared me for my current role, and qualified me for positions that had previously been out of reach."



Toby Rumford
SECURITY POLICY AND OPERATIONS,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

"Bringing together the very best of academia and practitioner, the course provided me with the skills and deep understanding to deliver positive change in international security."



Walter Xiongwen Pan
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN
AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
P. R. CHINA

"I was very impressed with the calibre of the inspiring lecturers, as well as the diverse backgrounds of the open-minded participants. As a career diplomat, I could easily relate what I learned from the programme with my own experiences and observations."

After the Programme

Whether you seek to move up within your current affiliation, change organisation within the same field, set up your own enterprise, or change your career entirely by moving into a new sector, the Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy will help you transform your career.

Not only will the course give you the skills and knowledge to benefit your career, it will give you access to a wide range of services and opportunities to help you prepare for future career challenges.

Executive Career Coaching

We offer participants the opportunity to receive bespoke career coaching from external professional Executive Careers Coaches, who offer tailored support to participants, helping them to assess their current situation and identify a strategy to achieve their future career goals.

Alumni Network

Upon graduation from the Executive Programme, students join the LSE IDEAS Alumni Network. As well as joining the dynamic LSE IDEAS community, LSE IDEAS alumni become part of a continually growing, diverse global network of leaders, professionals and experts. With close to 300 professionals, the Alumni Network is increasingly active, with regular new initiatives designed to help alumni share, connect and engage in discussions about international strategy, diplomacy and current affairs. With a unique insight into LSE IDEAS activities, our alumni are key to the life of the Centre, participating in public and exclusive events, delivering their expertise, and developing cutting-edge strategic updates. Over the past year, we have held a series of student and alumni meetings, public lectures, policy weekends and social events - all of which have helped further enhance the benefits of being a member of the Alumni Network.



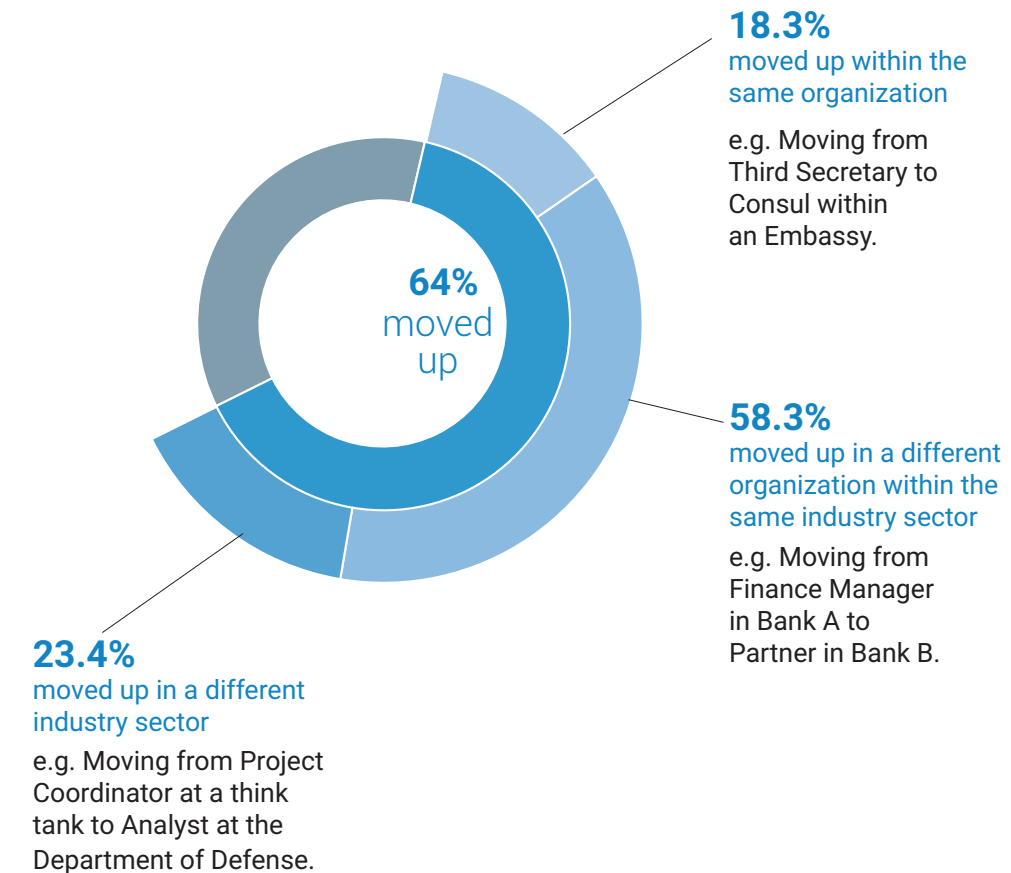


Alumni Career Progression

Over the past decade, our alumni have utilized the skills and knowledge gained from the LSE IDEAS Executive Programme to move up in their careers. Their testimonials and career paths illustrate how the Executive Programme can help in your career progression.

Approximately 64% of our alumni* have advanced their careers following graduation.

Within this group:



"The Programme provided me with a much broader vision on global strategy, risks, definition of problems and devising strategies to solve the problems or cope with the difficulties and uncertainties that governments/states face (...) This helped me to implement the methods I learned during the course in my career and supported me in being more resilient in approaching multi-lateral problems and cases where international cooperation and collaboration is vital."

—Ozden Alper
OFFICE OF THE TURKISH
PRIME MINISTER

*This data comes from 188 up-to-date profiles of the 267 alums that participated in the Programme between 2011 and 2020.

Application Process and Fees

Entry requirements

The programme is designed for senior and mid-level diplomats, civil servants, military officials, international NGO employees as well as executives from international firms and corporations (finance, consultancy, manufacturing, technology). You will be required to have:

- A 2:1 degree or equivalent in any discipline (preferably in politics, history, international relations or a similar discipline)
- A minimum four years’ professional experience

If English is not your first language, you should possess an English language qualification such as IELTS or TOEFL, awarded within the last two years. Minimum scores required are:

- IELTS—overall score of 7.0 (7.0 in reading and 6.5 in listening, writing, and speaking), or
- TOEFL—overall score of 100 (25 in reading, 24 in writing and 22 in listening and speaking).

Note: if English is the language of instruction of your previous degree, you may be exempt from this requirement.

How to apply

Candidates are considered on a rolling admissions basis, as early as November for the following September intake. However, we recommend applying as early as possible as there is high competition for places.

To be considered for this programme, you will need to apply using the online application form. You will be asked to write a personal statement, setting out why you are interested in the programme, highlighting your relevant experience and suitability for the programme and your future plans. In addition, you will need to attach your university degree certificates and transcripts, and two professional or academic references.

lse.ac.uk/ideas/exec/apply

Approximately 30 places are granted each year.

Programme fees

2023/24: £31,583

Note: there are no internal LSE scholarships for this programme at present.

Programme Team



Professor Chris Alden
ACADEMIC PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
j.c.alden@lse.ac.uk



Professor Hugh Sandeman
HEAD OF THE TEAM OF PRACTITIONERS
h.sandeman@lse.ac.uk



Dr Aaron McKeil
COURSE CONVENOR AND COURSE TUTOR
a.mckeil@lse.ac.uk



Dr Nicholas Kitchen
VISITING FELLOW
n.j.kitchen@lse.ac.uk



Gosia Brown
PROGRAMME MANAGER
g.m.brown@lse.ac.uk



Saniya Kulkarni
PROGRAMME ASSISTANT
s.kulkarni1@lse.ac.uk



Marta Kozielska
ALUMNI NETWORK COORDINATOR
m.m.kozielska@lse.ac.uk



The Executive Programme is managed by LSE IDEAS, LSE's foreign policy think tank.

Through sustained engagement with policymakers and opinion-formers, IDEAS provides a forum that informs policy debate and connects academic research with the practice of diplomacy and strategy. IDEAS hosts interdisciplinary research projects, produces working papers and reports, holds public and off-the-record events, and delivers cutting-edge executive training programmes for government, business and third-sector organisations.

LSE IDEAS

9th Floor, Pankhurst House (PAN)
Clement's Inn Passage
London WC2A 2AZ
United Kingdom

+44 (0)20 7849 4918

ideas@lse.ac.uk

lse.ac.uk/ideas

